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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 October 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin American Countries on the Counterinsurgency Critical List

A. Countries on the Critical List

1. Colombia

Terrorist activities in Colombia have increased during the past week. On the night of 24 September, 36 bombs exploded in the larger cities aimed at US and Colombian government property. The bombings probably were reprisals by the pro-Castro terrorists against recent successes of the Colombian Army in its antiguerrilla campaigns. The damage caused by the bombings was not great, but the pattern of the explosions indicates that they were part of a well-coordinated terrorist effort.

2. Venezuela

During the period of 20-29 September, 17 major terrorist attacks took place in Venezuela, resulting in a great deal of property damage and some loss of life. Attacks on US property were confined to oil-pipeline sabotage.

In Caracas on 24 September, the Banco Union was robbed of approximately \$16,000 by members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). This could signal the beginning of a terrorist campaign against the country's banks in order to acquire funds to finance additional FALN terrorist activities.

On 26 September, a shop engaged in the printing of election ballots in Caracas was attacked

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and burned, causing an estimated \$350,000 damage. This is the first reported incident of terrorist attacks against the country's electoral machinery.

On 29 September, an excursion train was also attacked by the FALN about 50 miles south of Caracas. Five National Guardsmen were killed in the attack, the greatest wholesale killing of military personnel in the history of the FALN-sponsored terrorist campaign.

A general roundup of extremist leaders, including the secretary general and two members of the politburo of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV)--all of whom are congressmen--has begun.

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